

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00084 132218Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 /083 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 75
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0084

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UR AO CU
SUBJ: CUBANS HONOR FOUNDER OF SOVIET SECRET POLICE

1. POLITBURO MEMBERS SERGIO DEL VALLE, CUBAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR (MINIT), SPOKE AT NATIONALLY TELEVISED CEREMONY SEPTEMBER 8 HONORING ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF FELIKS DZERSHINSKIY, FOUNDER OF CHEKA, PREDECESSOR OF KGB SECRET POLICE. MARLEN MANASOV, SOVIET CHARGE, ALSO SPOKE AT EVENT. NEITHER DEL VALLE NOR MANASOV DIRECTLY MENTINED CURRENT COLLABORATION BETWEEN MININT AND KGB NOR ANY EXILE OR INTERNAL SECURITY THREATS CONFRONTING CUBA. NO MENTION MADE OF CIA, WHICH CASTRO IN PAST HAS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-CUBAN ACTIVITY.

2. DEL VALLE PAID TRIBUTE TO BREZHNEV PERSONALLY AND TO SOVIET-CUBAN "COMMON EFFORT IN HELPING HEROIC PEOPLE OF ANGOLA" WHICH "PERMITTED REPLICATION IN AFRICA OF OTHER DEFEAT GIVEN TOT IMPERIALISM BY SAME COMMON EFFORT AT PLAYA GIRON" (BAY OF PIGS). DEL VALLE REFERRED TO CUBA'S EARLIER STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AGAINST "GREATEST IMPERIALIST POWER THAT HISTORY OF HUMANITY HAS EVER KNOWN", BUT REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING US BY NAME. MANASOV MADE NO REFERENCE TO CURRENT SOVIET-CUBAN POLICY COLLABORATION, NOR DID HE CRITICIZE US.

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PAGE 02 HAVANA 00084 132218Z

3. CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THEATER SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED ARMED, UNIFORMED MININT SOLDIERS.

4. COMMENT: DZERSHINSKIY CEREMONY IS PART OF ONGOING CELEBRATION OF SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION. SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH CUBAN LEADERSHIP VIEWS CELEBRATION IS WITNESSED BY MEETING HELD UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF POLITBURO MEMBER JOSE MACHADO VENTURA

AND SECRETARIAT MEMBER ANTONIO PEREZ HERRERO AUGUST 29 TO REVIEW
ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN HONOR OF SOVIET UNION. POSSIBLE EVIDENCE
OF SOME RESERVE HEREABOUT SOVIET CONNECTION IS PROVIDED BY DEL
VALLE'S ASSERTION THAT SOVIET ASSISTANCE GIVES LIE TO "SUBVERSIVE
CAMPAIGNS AGAINST USSR LAUNCHED BY REACTIONARIES,
LIARS, INTRIGUERS, AND TRAITORS".
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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